

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 9, 2008. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1 and 12 are in independent form. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 12, 13 or 14. No new matter has been added by the amendment to claim 15. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 have been allowed.

Claims 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0004486 (Poulbot et al.). Applicants maintain that Poulbot et al. does not anticipate claims 15 to 17.

The Examiner contends Poulbot teaches measuring the local bending of part of the sidewall of the tire in a plane containing the axis of the tire. (Emphasis added). The Examiner refers to paragraphs [0046] to [0047] of Poulbot et al. to support his allegation.

Poulbot et al., Paragraphs [0046] and [0047], which relate to Fig. 1, discloses a device of the invention that is provided in a tread of a tire, not a sidewall and thus, cannot measure the local bending of part of a sidewall of a tire.

Applicants note that Poulbot et al. teach a device that is provided in a sidewall of a tire in Fig. 4 and paragraphs [0059]-[0062]. In this embodiment, Poulbot et al. teaches that the electrodes of the device are substantially parallel to each other and to the sidewall and that the electrodes extend along a radius of the pneumatic tire, with each electrode being situated substantially at the same distance from the center plane of the tire, *i.e.*, the electrodes are parallel to the rotation axis of the tire. Thus, Poulbot et al. does not teach measuring the local bending of

part of the sidewall of the tire in a plane containing the axis of the tire. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Poulbot et al. does not anticipate claim 15.

However, in order to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have amended claim 15 to include the limitation that the local bending of part of the sidewall of the tire in a plane containing the axis of the tire is measured with the deformation sensor according to claim 12, 13 or 14. Because the subject matter of claims 12-14 has been allowed by the Examiner, Applicants believe that claim 15, as amended, should also be deemed allowable.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from Claim 15 and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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